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Guide-Book of Camden

History
Points of Interest









JAMES POLK DICKINSON MONUMENT



CONFEDERATE MONUMENT



MONUMENT TO CAMDENS SIX GENERALS

Guide-Book of Camden

Containing Description of Points of Interest

Together With

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

Pioneer and Revolutionary Scenes

Battle of Camden

Battle of Hobkirk Hill

With Illustrations



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To
H. C. S.
at whose prompting
and
with whose kind assistance
this Guide-Book
has been prepared

GUIDE-BOOK OF CAMDEN

CAMDEN: DESCRIPTIVE FOREWORD.

Camden is a city of about 4,000 people, situated in Kershaw county, in the Pine Belt region of central South Carolina. It is reached by railroad from north, south and west by well-appointed trains: in 18 or 19 hours from New York, in 13 hours from Washington, in 36 hours from Chicago. From the far south of Florida the journey by rail is made in somewhat less than 24 hours; from Jacksonville in 11. Savannah, Atlanta, Augusta, are all readily accessible, and the journey to and from Charleston is accomplished in six hours. Travelers from New York and Boston may journey to Camden by large coastwise steamers to Charleston or Savannah with three or four nights at sea, according to the point of departure and the route chosen. Camden is situated on the "Capital to Capital" highway and may be reached by motor car from all southern points.

Camden is served by three modern resort hotels and many excellent boarding houses. Its reputation as a health resort is established. The mild, but bracing atmosphere of the winter months, the cheering southern sunshine, have proved the delight of many thousands of visitors. There is much that is attractive in the scenery, while the flowers, hedges, shrubbery and gardens are greatly admired. The town itself is pleasing. The streets are broad and their shade abundant, the houses comfortable and, many of them,

handsome. Indeed Camden's fine old places are not the least of the town's attractions.

There is much of historical interest in Camden's connection with stirring events to stimulate the student and sightseer.

Camden has a modern lighting plant and well-illuminated highways; an excellent water system and carefully protected water supply; police and fire departments; a health officer; schools; an industrial school for colored children; a Carnegie library; two weekly newspapers; spacious public parks; handsome public buildings; Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Catholic churches; a Chamber of Commerce; two 18-hole golf courses; a polo club; a riding and driving club; and a well-appointed modern hospital.

There are two cotton mills and a cottonseed oil mill, while a national bank and two state banks supply banking facilities. The agricultural region about Camden, though not one of the more highly productive areas of South Carolina, is nevertheless of continually increasing production and there are many large plantations in the neighborhood where southern agriculture may be seen to advantage.

THE HISTORY OF CAMDEN.

The following Historical Sketch is founded upon the statements set forth in "Historic Camden," by Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy. This excellent work is the authoritative history of local events and the account given in it of the happenings of national history in which Camden figured is accurate and full. To it any who wish a fuller account than the following are referred by the compiler of this Guide.

EARLY HISTORY.

At the beginning of the historic period the inhabitants of the regions about the present city of Camden were Indians of the Wateree tribe. One of their villages is shown on an early map within the present limits of the town at a point marked now by the Hermitage Cotton Mills. But at the time of the arrival of the first white settlers the overlordship of the Indians had been assumed by the Catawbias, and it is with this latter tribe that the fathers of Camden had principally to deal. It is their king, Haigler, who has become, in a measure, the patron saint of Camden. It is his effigy which adorns the steeple of Camden City Hall where the visitor may perceive him at all times and in all weathers vigilant in his task of indicating the direction of the breezes which blow over Camden. The relations of the Indians to the white settlers were generally undisturbed and it is a fact to be recorded to the credit of both the newcomers and the aborigines that there was so little friction in the conduct of mutual dealings. King Haigler throughout his life was well disposed to the intruders, and he and Samuel Wyly, an early Quaker settler, were even intimate in

their friendship. The Catawbas fought for the Americans, both in their Indian wars and in their struggle for independence, and in the Civil War there were twenty of them who fought for the Confederacy.

The first white settlers appeared early in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. One, James Ousley, received a grant of three hundred acres on the west side of the Wateree river in 1733; by 1750 as many as forty families were dwelling in this region spread up and down on both sides of the river north and south of the location of modern Camden.

In 1734 a township called Fredericksburg was laid out on the east bank of the river, but this township only roughly corresponded with the town which was later established and for many years there continued to be no real town. The site of Camden remained a forest.

The settlers lived on isolated farms without any of the regular accompaniments of village life. Even the large accession to the population about 1750, when a party of immigrant Irish Quakers appeared on the scene, effected no large change in the manner of living along the Wateree. One of these Quakers, however, conducted a store under the name of Wyly and Company, and another, Daniel Mathis, must have lived within the present bounds of Camden for his son established his claim to the honor of being the first white person born in Camden. The Quakers built a meeting-house. This meeting-house and the Quaker graveyard, which surrounded it, were within the limits of the present Camden cemetery. Samuel Wyly con-

veyed the land for the meeting-house in 1759 and the Quaker place of worship was probably not long in building after this.

The village began to take form. In 1758 there appeared here a man with whose life and activity Camden's early history is closely bound. This was Joseph Kershaw. When he arrived the site of Camden was still wooded ground, save, perhaps, where the Mathis family lived. The country round about was thickly dotted with farms, but Camden itself was as yet non-existent. In the year of his arrival this industrious man established a store on what he then called Pine Tree Hill, a very slight eminence in the southeast part of the town which later generations call Magazine Hill. One of his partners, William Ancrum, surveyed a tract of one hundred fifty acres, and it was on this tract that the store and hill were situated. Here was the beginning of the town; for ten years the forming village bore the name Pine Tree Hill.

In 1768, however, the town received its name, the name it now carries, Camden. And why Camden? The name, undoubtedly, was bestowed in honor of Charles Pratt, an English statesman and follower of the great Lord Chatham, who had recently been raised to the peerage, under the title Baron Camden, for his pleas on behalf of the American contentions in the struggle between them and England. This struggle was already acute when Camden received its name, and this naming of the town after an English champion of the colonial cause reflects the interest of South Carolina.

In 1771 a court-house was built. A Presbyterian Church was established. A petition, 1772, for the establishment of an Episcopal Church shows that the town was growing.

And now the young town, growing and prospering, but still unincorporated, became the scene of stirring events with which its name to its greater renown is indissolubly linked. They were, however, sad days for the people of Camden.

REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

1. To the British Occupation of Camden.

It was not till 1780 that Camden became especially prominent. Before this, and as early as November, 1774, Camden had had its share in the Revolutionary struggle. In that month William Henry Drayton, presiding at a Circuit Court at Camden, had delivered the first of a series of stirring appeals which did much to establish public opinion in South Carolina on the American side. This first appeal was so effective that the Grand Jury responded with a vigorous presentment, a veritable "Declaration of Independence," that bears a number of distinctively Camden names. From this time forward the leading spirit here was pronouncedly Revolutionary, though Camden was not without its quota of Loyalists, drawn largely from the Quakers. And when the fighting began, Camden, from the first, did its share. Men from here fought in the defense of Charleston in 1776 and thereafter Camden supplied men to the rebel armies.

In 1780 a magazine was erected on Pine Tree Hill in Camden at a cost of nine thousand pounds and Joseph Kershaw, now bearing the title of colonel, was made custodian. Just at this time, 12th May, 1780, Charleston fell to the British, and the conqueror, Clinton, sent General Cornwallis into the interior with 2,500 men to subdue the rebellious centers. Two weeks later a detachment under Bannastre Tarleton, after defeating a regiment of Americans under Colonel Buford, at a point forty miles north of here, and well-nigh killing all its members, fell back upon Camden with half a hundred prisoners he had spared. This was the beginning of the British occupation of Camden. On 1st June, 1780, Cornwallis entered the town and made it a fortified post with all the celerity he could command.

The occupation lasted until the 8th May in the following year. In the meantime two battles had been fought in the immediate vicinity.

2. Battle of Camden—August 16, 1780.

The first of these encounters took place on the 16th of August on a field eight miles north of Camden. It is famous not because of its results, which, though not inconsiderable, were nothing more than a delay to the ultimate American triumph, but because it was probably the most complete rout suffered by either side in any important engagement of the war. Here General Horatio Gates exchanged his northern laurels for southern willows. Here De Kalb, the Alsatian soldier of fortune and friend of America, fell mortally wounded,

a grievous loss to the southern Revolutionary army. Here that army itself was virtually annihilated.

Gates had superseded De Kalb in command of the small southern forces at the end of July, 1780, soon after the British entered Camden. From that moment to the day of his disaster he pursued his campaign with vigor. Two days after assuming command he left Wilcox's Mill in North Carolina for Camden. On August 6th he entered South Carolina. The following day he came up with General Casewell and his North Carolina brigade, replenished his supply of provisions, and pushed on to Lynches Creek, twenty miles north-east of Camden. At this point he found the young English general, Lord Rawdon, across his path with three regiments. These he caused to fall back to Log Town in Camden, without a battle. Then he moved on to "Clermont," Colonel Rugeley's place, thirteen miles north of Camden. Here he spent the 13th of August.

On the next day his forces were increased by 700 Virginians under General Stevens, but Sumter, who here joined him, he sent off once more after detaching to him one hundred Maryland Continentals and North Carolina militia. Historians have averred that after Gates took command of the southern army he committed, in the words of Trevelyan, "every fault that any general could have found time to commit," and this sending off of Sumter and the choice troops under him on a "fool's errand" is listed among the greatest of these errors. Sumter's task was to take Carey's fort across the Wateree river from Camden. This he accomplished successfully on the 15th, the day after his

departure, a fruitless victory that cost Gates his valuable help on the 16th!

General Gates's army at this time amounted to 3,600 men, of whom 2,000 were seasoned Continentals. The presence of this army in close proximity to Camden had rendered the British position perilous. General Cornwallis, who, on hearing of Gates's approach, had hastened up from Charleston and collected his forces, found himself far in the interior of a hostile country, surrounded by swamps, cut off by Sumter in the rear and faced by an American army half as large again as his—an uncomfortable position.

He had an army of 2,331 men, including officers. But in spite of the disparity of numbers, he made up his mind to strike. He accordingly set out for Clermont on the night of the 15th August, planning to attack his enemy at daybreak.

Gates, at the same time, had determined to occupy a strong position near Camden, on Saunders Creek, which had been selected for him by his engineer, and he, too, undertook a night march on the 15th.

We then have the striking situation, two hostile armies marching toward each other through the night on the same road! The inevitable meeting took place at two in the morning. Up to this hour the British, marching at speed, had covered eight miles of the forested way; the Americans, under no apparent necessity for haste, but five. The place of meeting was one mile north of a creek named Gum Swamp, an elevated sandy plateau about two miles long and one mile wide, enclosed by streams and boggy swamps, with

the road running through the midst. Today it is in part under cultivation, in part covered by scrub oaks and low growth; on that disastrous morning it was shaded by tall pines.

After the first clash the armies recoiled. Armand's American cavalry had behaved badly and fled the field; a few combatants had fallen; each side had taken prisoners. The armies then formed in battle line and waited for day to come to begin the battle. Cornwallis, who had left Camden in order to fight, was now eager for it. Gates and his generals decided that there was no alternative and prepared accordingly. But not wisely! For upon his worst troops the American general placed the responsibility of attack.

Morning came. Through the still, slightly hazy, atmosphere, one of the American officers descried the British a short way down the road. He brought word to General Gates, who, deciding that now was the moment for attack, sent Colonel Williams galloping off to General Stevens, in command of the Virginia militia on the American left wing, with the order to attack. General Stevens immediately advanced at the head of his troops to the encounter.

The British were not idle. Cornwallis, perceiving the Americans opposite his right in movement and diagnosing the movement as an attack, sent General Webster, in command of his 23rd and 33rd regiments of regulars, to meet the approaching Americans.

The rest is sad reading. At the first clash the entire Virginia brigade took to its heels and the North Caro-

linians joined in the disgraceful panic. Only the Continentals stood.

The battle really was decided in this first clash. The American commander tried personally to rally the flying patriots, but Tarleton, with his cavalry, was among them, carrying terror and even greater panic, and Gates himself was swept away, on his fleet race horse, in the flood of retreat, taking his reputation with him. When the rout was complete, Webster turned his red-coated following against the exposed flank of the Continentals under De Kalb. Even now the brave men, deserted by the militiamen, were making a game fight and were not being altogether whipped. But Tarleton, having finished off all those agile militiamen who had not found refuge in the swamps, threw his cavalry into the struggle and this ended it. De Kalb fell, wounded to the death. The Continentals scattered and found their only hope of safety with those patriots, who had earlier left the field, in those wooded and swampy havens where cavalry could not follow.

The pursuit was driven home. As a result of a few minutes' hot struggle, and the battle had been over in incredibly short time, the southern army was a ruin. Tarleton did not leave off harrying and butchering until he had gone twenty-two miles beyond the place of battle.

General Gates did not pause till he reached Charlotte, nor leave his saddle till on the fourth evening at Hillsboro in North Carolina he had placed two hundred miles of road between him and the spot of his defeat! The reputation of Horatio Gates was gone; the fidelity

and affection of his admirers in Congress was stretched beyond repair, and never again was he entrusted with the care of the safety or honor of an American army.

In this battle the British lost 324 killed and wounded. On the American side the militia made no return. The loss among 2,090 Continentals was 849. The importance of the battle may not be measured by the detail of losses. It was not, truly, one of the decisive battles of the Revolution, although the victory was one of the most complete British soldiers ever achieved, and its importance comes entirely from the fact that it delayed the American triumph and discouraged the American heart. Following closely upon the news of the fall of Charleston, the news from Camden reached the people of the north when the popular mind was already depressed. The French alliance seemed to have brought no profit; the armies lay idle; American finance was in a deplorable condition. Men were saying that the war was a failure. Benedict Arnold was plotting to be the General Monk of the American Revolution and restore George the Third in America as Charles the Second had been restored to his throne in Great Britain a hundred and twenty years before. To a people in such an atmosphere came the news from South Carolina that the principal city of those parts had fallen to the enemy and that the southern army had been destroyed. In this lies the importance of the battle.

Before dismissing the subject, it must be recorded what befell the hero of that field, the brave De Kalb. He had fallen wounded on the battlefield. He was

brought into Camden and there died on the third day and was buried with military honors by the British.

3. Battle of Hobkirk Hill—April 25th, 1781.

The second of the battles fought in the vicinity of Camden took place eight months later, on the 25th April, 1781, and was fought within the present bounds of Camden.

The intervening eight months had witnessed the carrying out of a policy of terrorism directed against the South Carolinians by the British invaders, and for this extreme policy Camden had proved a ready base. Deluded by the collapse of the American army in the August battle into thinking that nothing was now needed to finish rebellion in the South but a little firmness, the British commanders commenced executing and imprisoning recalcitrant Americans with a freedom they had hitherto denied themselves. Into Camden were fetched the wounded and prisoners from many minor battlefields. Hangings became so common as no longer to excite particular attention from the inhabitants. Deportations of leading men of the American party also took place, and among those exiled was Joseph Kershaw, the founder of Camden. He and his brother were sent to Bermuda and on the way the brother died. Among the prisoners in Camden that year was a youth whose destiny was to lead him to the White House many years later. This was Andrew Jackson. Of his prison experiences in Camden he carried through life a reminder in the form of a scar upon the cheek from a wound inflicted by a British

officer because he refused to black the gentleman's boots.

For the new policy of terrorism the English found ready excuse in the many instances of violated parole of which the Americans were guilty, while aid and comfort were undoubtedly rendered by those whom necessity only had caused to submit, but whose sympathy with the rebel guerrillas was so strong as to constitute constant temptation. The ruthlessness with which the British carried out their policy and the inflexibility with which they interpreted violations of the rules they had established resulted in strengthening, rather than weakening, the devotion of the colonists to the cause of separation.

Camden was meanwhile transformed into a military station. In the center of the town a stockade was erected, while forts were put up at the four corners of the village to give greater protection to the town and garrison. Lord Rawdon was in command, a young man afterwards distinguished for his service in India and ennobled under the title of Marquis of Hastings. Under him was a garrison which varied in size as detachments were sent out or other garrisons called in, but numbering generally close to a thousand men.

The military situation in the South altered with the winter. After General Nathaniel Greene had assumed command of the remnant of Gates's army in December, 1780, and after a few small victories had been achieved by the American forces, notably at Cowpens, Cornwallis went north from South Carolina to retrieve what had been lost. At Guilford Court House, in North

Carolina, he met General Greene and won one of those fruitless victories, in reality defeats, by which the British campaigns in the South were distinguished, and in March, 1781, he departed for Wilmington, N. C.

It was then that General Greene conceived the brilliant plan of a descent upon the British garrisons in South Carolina. The move was certain either to draw Cornwallis back into South Carolina and so free North Carolina and Virginia of the presence of his army, or to result in the capture, or at least withdrawal, of the British garrisons. The truth was, though this was not clear to contemporary eyes, that for the British the game was about up. Every alternative was an alternative of disaster. And General Greene forced a choice. In this case Cornwallis did not follow Greene. He chose instead the fatal road which led to Yorktown; and the ragged, starving American army, numbering barely 2,000 men, went off unhindered to its work in South Carolina.

Greene went straight for Camden. He arrived here on the 19th of April. He maneuvered in this neighborhood for several days, occupying various positions and, finally, on the evening of Tuesday, the 24th, camping on Hobkirk Hill immediately north of that upper section of Camden then called Log Town, situated between what are now De Kalb and Chestnut (or Boundary) streets. Rawdon, in Camden, had all along been aware of his adversary's movements, but on the night of the 24th, he received information from an American deserter that determined him to seek battle. This news was that the Americans were out of provi-

sions, and, what was more important, that they lacked cannon. This information was correct when given, but the morning of Wednesday, the 25th, which found the British preparing for battle, also found the Americans rejoicing at the arrival, between nine and ten, of an abundance of provisions and of two cannon sure to strengthen Greene's position greatly.

General Greene's position was strong anyway. Hobkirk Hill is a not inconsiderable elevation quite steep on its southern side, that up which Lord Rawdon must approach, wooded (in 1780), and stretching for a quarter of a mile in either direction from Broad street. On the crest, the American forces were disposed. One wing, the right, under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, occupied ground now covered by the buildings of the Kirkwood Hotel, while the left, Marylanders, reached about to what is now Lyttleton street and perhaps beyond. On either side of the road itself holding the center were, right center, the Second Virginians under Lieutenant-Colonel Hawes, and, left center, the tried First Marylanders under Colonel Gunby. The newly arrived cannon were stationed on the road itself, then not sunken, as at present. Beyond the left wing, somewhere in the woods, were the remnants of the Delaware regiment with Captain Kirkwood in command, and still further out, two companies of pickets at a junction of roads near where is now the Sarsfield Golf Club. Behind the center were stationed reserves, a troop of light infantry under Captain Smith, while Colonel Washington's cavalry were still further to the rear.

The visitor to the battlefield can explore every corner of it in half an hour.

The British sallied forth at ten in the morning and, following the circuitous route of the Pine Tree Creek on the east of Camden, first encountered the pickets at the left beyond the American line. The sound of the shots, brought forth by this meeting, caused Greene's forces on the hill, then engaged in enjoying the newly received provisions, to form for action. Shortly thereafter the British troops, driving Kirkwood's band before them, appeared at the foot of the hill, and received a welcome from the cannon in the road. This was Rawdon's first knowledge of the artillery reinforcement to the American army.

His troops seemed about to break. Posted before them in an exceedingly advantageous position, was an enemy numerically superior, unexpectedly provided where he had been supposed to be deficient. Hesitation was natural.

General Greene immediately undertook the attack, seeking to envelope both flanks of the small band opposed to him, and at the same time he sent Washington's cavalry to the British rear to cut off retreat. Ford and Campbell, commanding respectively the left and the right wings, advanced from both ends of the American line; the two regiments in the center descended the hill more slowly, trailing their arms and prepared to charge bayonets. The maneuver promised to grind Rawdon between the jaws of a Titan, while he was crushed at the same time by a frontal attack.

Lord Rawdon brought up his reserves to attack, in their turn, the flanks of the American enveloping forces, so that now every available man was in the battle line, and his situation, though relieved, was precarious.

At this instant, the American machine, which had been operating with precision, went wrong. Captain Beatty, in command of one of the companies of Gunby's regiment, left center, fell. His men, in violation of instructions, began firing their muskets, and then broke and retired, taking with them in the confusion the company next in line. Colonel Gunby, to restore his line, ordered his remaining companies to retire also, so that the regiment might reform. The order was misunderstood as one for retreat. The entire regiment became confused and the confusion spread west of the road to Ford's regiment, whose commander had just fallen mortally wounded. Both regiments precipitately retired, purposing to reform back from the top of the hill. By the time the reformation was complete the British held the hilltop and were in possession of the two cannon. The battle was now fully under way. The musketry of the contending forces shattered the atmosphere. A Camden youth, Samuel Mathis, records in his diary: "Between eleven and twelve o'clock heard a very heavy fire of cannon and musketry, lasting fifteen minutes." Confusion and fierce fighting marked the battle from now forth. As the American line was pierced, Greene drew back his wings. However, there was no rout. The Americans continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. The reserves under Captain

Smith and the cavalry of Washington, reappearing from their fruitless "cutting off of the British retreat," recaptured the artillery and carried both pieces from the field.

Like the first battle of Camden, this second fight was over in incredibly short time, there being evidence that it did not last beyond half an hour. The American general brought his men off in good order.

Tactically this was a British victory. The Americans had been driven from the field. The achievement, if brilliant, was, however, fruitless. Lord Rawdon's loss in killed and wounded, 258, was almost equal to the American loss, while proportionately much greater, as the English force was smaller. If the heavens wept that day—and Mathis records "Afternoon hard Rain"—it was not for Greene the celestial tears were shed.

The inevitable had been delayed by a few days. Rawdon's precarious position in Camden had been made but a little less precarious because he had driven General Greene from Hobkirk Hill. Sumter and Marion were busy cutting off his sources of supplies and endangering his communications with his base at Charleston so that it made little difference how gallantly he fought or how many victories he won at the end of his ravelling line. On the 8th May he commenced his withdrawal from Camden. The following day the young Irishman shook its soil from his military boots, burned of his supplies what he could not carry away, and departed, never to return. After a summer campaign in defense of his other posts and after one more sanguinary combat with his opponent of Hobkirk

Hill, at Eutaw Springs, he withdrew to Charleston, and next year South Carolina was free.

On the departure of the British, the people of Camden began to enjoy the fruits of victory, to rebuild what had been burnt, to recall the exiles, to savor peace after suffering.

For many years the field of Hobkirk gave up relics of this bloody struggle for American freedom, a pocket pistol, a rusted bayonet, buttons from the uniforms of brave men who gave their lives that April morning a hundred thirty-odd years ago.

PARKS AND STREETS.

Camden is fortunate in the manner in which its streets are laid out and in the abundance of squares or parks for the adornment of the city and the recreation of her people.

The first survey of the town was one made by William Ancrum in 1758, when he and Joseph Kershaw, his partner, first came to the inland settlement. The earliest plan extant, approximately of the date of 1774, shows a town laid out about a central square at the junction of Broad and Bull streets. This is far below (south) the present business center of the city and the old square is now hardly distinguishable from the surrounding open country. Gordon, Campbell, Church, Broad, Market, Lyttleton and Mill streets are present in this plan as north-and-south streets, while York, King, Bull, Meeting and Wateree streets intersect them at right angles.

The village, however, grew northward, largely as a result of fires which, more than once, swept the older town. The higher ground, it is likely, had its own inherent appeal which attracted residents away from the flatter region. In 1798 we find a plan showing the town extending northward as far as Chestnut (or Boundary) street, and marked upon it another square, at the junction of Laurens and Broad streets, the present Monument Park. This plan also shows four other parks in the upper town. Two of these, Kershaw Park and Hampton Grove, now form valuable and decorative parks. The other two, though less completely

developed and much less elaborately treated, are still extremely useful. They are situated between Gordon and Campbell avenues, one just south of Chestnut (or Boundary) street and the other just north of De Kalb street. These five parks were a splendid gift of the founders of the town to their descendants and successors.

In the names of the streets of modern Camden are many reminders of persons prominent in the history of town, state, or nation.

Wyly street commemorates an early Quaker settler; Gordon street bears the name of Thomas Knox Gordon, the Justice who presided at the first Court held in Camden, 5th November, 1772; Laurens street recalls the name of an illustrious Revolutionary family; De Kalb street, of course, is named for the hero of the first battle of Camden; and Rutledge street brings to mind still another hero of the early days, John Rutledge. Lafayette avenue, more recently laid out, is named for the Marquis of Lafayette, the distinguished friend of America, whose visit to Camden, in 1825, was an event in the history of the city.

These names are still those by which the streets are commonly known. An attempt has been made, however, to introduce a more scientific nomenclature employing numerals, and house numbers are everywhere based upon this system. Under this system the north and south streets are avenues and the east and west streets, streets. For convenience certain of the equivalents are given here, as follows: Avenues, Mill street=2d avenue, Fair=3d, Lyttleton=4th, Market,

which extends no further north than De Kalb street, equals 5th, and Broad=6th. Of the streets, De Kalb=11th, Laurens=14th, Chestnut=17th, and Greene=20th. Chestnut street is also sometimes called Boundary street and Broad street below De Kalb is often spoken of as Main street.

HOUSES AND GARDENS.

The architecture of the older houses of Camden is distinctively Southern, marked as it is by the broad galleries extending across one or more sides of the houses and often carried up to the eaves with two platforms or stories. In many of the houses the main entrance is almost a full story above ground level and is reached by a long exterior flight of steps and this arrangement produces its own distinctive effect. On a short section of Broad street between Laurens and De Kalb streets is a group of houses with gable-ends to the street which recalls the arrangement so characteristic of Charleston and generally accounted quaint and charming.

The gardens about so many of the houses, old and modern alike, contribute to the beauty of the town. Evergreen shrubs and trees, and vines which flower in the winter, make the gardens almost as pleasing in the dead season of the year as in the spring and summer, though it is not until late March and April that they are seen to best advantage. The gardens in the grounds of the Court Inn on Mill street are of great age and of unusual extent. The arched evergreen walk, which measures one dimension, is 500 feet in

length. A curious maze is another feature of this garden which in its more usual aspects is fittingly representative of South Carolina gardens.

PLACES, BUILDINGS AND OTHER OBJECTS OF INTEREST.

Indian Mounds.

The Cherokee Indians, who occupied territory in this vicinity, are supposed to have been the builders of the mounds along the Wateree river. These Indian mounds were not originally places of burial, but were sites of residence, probably those of the council houses or the houses of the chiefs. The reason that to the Cherokee Indians, and not to the Wateree Indians, the building of these mounds has been attributed, is that an early traveler among the Indians, John Lawson, who visited the Waterees in 1701, reports them to have been altogether indolent and they have been, in consequence, judged incapable of erecting these colossal monuments, while the Cherokees are known to have been more energetic.

1. Adamson Mound:

This large Indian mound, one of the largest, is easily accessible. It is just a mile west of Camden and about one-half mile north of the Columbia road. Those interested in ethnology will be repaid for the walk by a glimpse of this relic of the aborigines.

2. Chestnut "Mound."

This so-called mound, a short way south of Camden, is not a true Indian mound, like the Adamson mound, or the other mounds up the river, but when examined, in 1886, proved to be an old Indian burying ground. Hardly less interesting in this character it has been a source for the recovery of many Indian relics, pottery, pipes and stone axes.

Pine Tree Hill—Magazine Hill—Cornwallis House.

This low hill in the southeastern corner of Camden is intimately connected with the early history of the town. Here Joseph Kershaw, the man who, more than any other, deserves the title of founder of Camden, established his store in 1759, and called the spot Pine Tree Hill. By this name the town was known for several years.

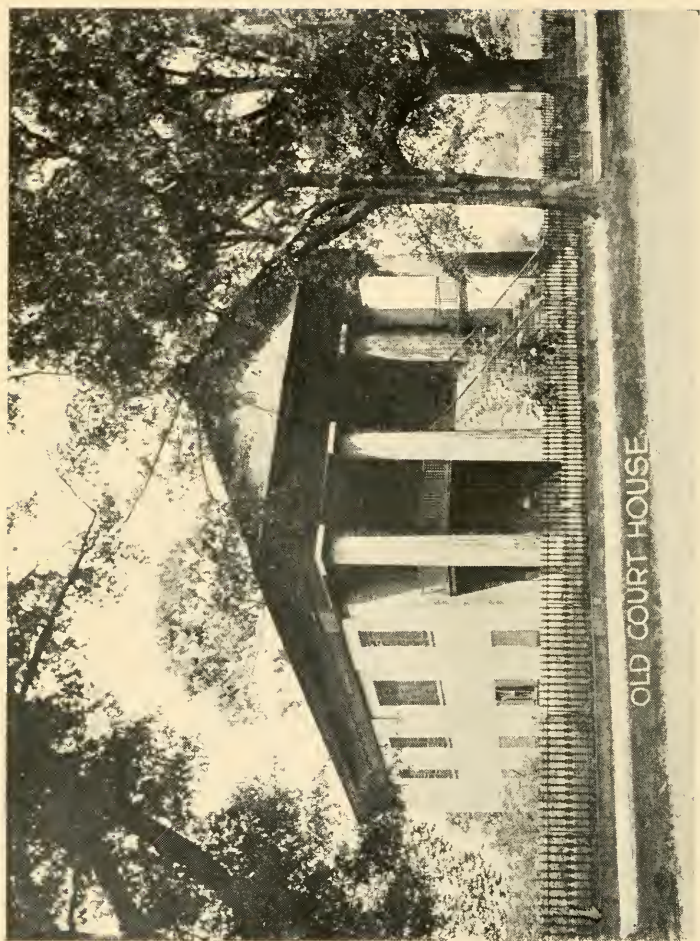
When the Revolutionary War was in progress, a magazine, or arsenal, was built at the southeastern base of the hill at the cost of 9,000 pounds. Kershaw was put in charge. On this hill Kershaw had already built a residence for himself. When the British took Camden in 1780 both house and magazine fell into the hands of the conquerors. The magazine, already partially fortified by the Americans, they transformed into a redoubt as part of the system of fortifications of the town. From its shape it came to be known as the "Star" redoubt. The house became the British headquarters while the occupation lasted, and from this circumstance it came to be known as the Cornwallis house

by a figure of speech in which the name of the British commander was made to do service for that of the invaders generally.

Cornwallis, himself, occupied the house for but a short time. It was a large three-storied building, very fine for the time, surrounded by handsome trees and beautiful grounds. As a penalty for his prominence in the cause of the rebellion, the owner, Kershaw, was deported, but his family were allowed to occupy an upper room for a time. However, young Lord Rawdon, when he took command, turned Mrs. Kershaw and her children out.

When the British evacuated Camden in 1781, Rawdon ordered the destruction of the "Star" redoubt, and General Greene, when he entered the town, completed the work of demolition. Nothing now remains of the old magazine but a heap of brickbats.

The destruction of the Cornwallis house was reserved for later times. During the Civil War the mansion was used as a Confederate storehouse. It was burned the day on which a detachment from General Sherman's army entered Camden in February, 1865, or on the evening of that day. The Confederate commissary, Captain John H. Devereux, ordered its destruction to prevent its falling into the hands of the United States troops. There is some question as to whether the order was indeed executed, and the supposition is general that it was the Federal forces who actually caused its destruction in accordance with the announced policy of destroying all such buildings. The point has not been quite determined.



OLD COURT HOUSE



METHODIST CHURCH



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



BAPTIST CHURCH



EPISCOPAL CHURCH



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Old Court House.

It has been explained elsewhere that the town of Camden grew away from its original site, northward, away from Pine Tree Hill and the old square at the junction of Broad and Bull streets. A short distance north of the old square, on the west side of Broad street, there still stands the old Court House, built in 1826, but now no longer used as a court-house, a dignified structure of classic architecture, with four fluted columns two stories high across its front, through which rises to the second floor a flight of stone steps. For about 80 years this building was the administrative center of the county, but it is now the property of the Daughters of the Revolution. Interesting relics of the historical period have been gathered there.

The City Hall Weather Vane—Effigy of King Haigler.

The most curious of the relics of Camden's early days is the weather vane now to be seen on the steeple of the city hall. The vane is an ideal representation of Haigler, King of the Catawbias, an Indian chief of the time of the first settlement of Camden. Haigler was the friend of the early Quaker settlers and was intimate with Samuel Wyly, the storekeeper. He seems to have been of so much real service to the pioneers as to become in a sense "patron saint" of the struggling settlement. In his death—he was murdered by lurking Shawnees in 1763—the people of Pine Tree Hill suffered a personal loss.

The figure of the weather vane is five feet one inch in height. It is cut from iron and is gilded. The

artist was a Frenchman, one J. B. Mathieu, whose profession was the making of profiles, "warranted correct likenesses." Mathieu lived here from 1815 to 1834, and the likeness of Haigler was made by him some time prior to 1826, in which year it was raised to the top of the steeple on the market at King and Broad streets in the old town. Here it stayed till 1859, when it was removed to the new market on the west side of Broad street. Again, January, 1886, it was moved to its present position.

The town clock above which King Kaigler stands perched, drawing his bow, is contemporary with the vane and has accompanied it at each move.

Revolutionary Cannon.

The old iron cannon which are to be seen in the yard of the Hobkirk Inn were removed to their present position in the 80's. Previous to this, they had been on Magazine Hill, where, up to its destruction, they guarded the yard of the Cornwallis house, and were on notable occasions used for firing salutes. One of these cannon, it will be observed, bears the *fleur-de-lis* of France and it is supposed that this gun was captured at the siege of Louisburg and that it was brought to Camden by the British when they held the town.

The cannon in Kershaw Park likewise bears the *fleur-de-lis*.

Grave of Agnes of Glasgow.

The old Presbyterian churchyard near the present

Camden cemetery contains a low headstone with the following inscription:

HERE LIES
THE BODY OF
AGNES OF GLASGOW
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
FEBER 1780 AGED 20

This grave and stone are interesting because around them a curious legend has grown up. The manner of inscription in which the heroine is described as "of Glasgow," the fact that unlike most of the graves of the period, this is marked by an engraved stone, account probably for the growth of legend. The story, in various forms, is interesting.

First form: Agnes is said to have been an attractive Scotch maiden, who, having given her heart to a British soldier in America, came to this country to join him. She forgot, however, before embarking to ascertain his exact whereabouts and discovered on arrival in America that the task of finding her lover was an arduous one. She wandered, so it is said, from camp to camp, from New England to South Carolina, and reaching Camden at last found that her betrothed was lying in the churchyard. A broken heart soon brought her own death. Lord Cornwallis, touched, had her buried and her grave marked.

Second form: In the second version Agnes is said to have been the mistress of Lord Cornwallis and to have died of a broken heart induced by the neglect of her military lover. Cornwallis's remorse is made

responsible for the marking of the grave and the honor thus bestowed upon the poor girl.

A too accurate modern historian has pointed out that the date of Agnes's death, as recorded upon the gravestone itself, was several months before the British entered Camden.

The spot is interesting and the riddle intriguing.

Grave of De Kalb

The yard of the Presbyterian Church on De Kalb street holds a grave and monument of peculiar interest. Here is buried that brave Revolutionary general, De Kalb, who sacrificed his life at Camden for a cause not his own and whose dust brings honor to the city which holds it as a sacred memorial.

John Kalb was an Alsatian peasant, soldier of fortune, and friend of America. It was on entering the French army as a youth that he assumed the "de" and began calling himself "Baron," an innocent pretension, to quicken promotion. Previous to the revolt of the colonies he had visited America on a mission for the French government. In 1776 he came to give his services to the young republic, and he rose rapidly in the service. At the battle of Camden he was second in command to General Gates and might better have been second to nobody. Here it was that in rallying his troops after the first disaster, when his superior was already leaving the field, he received his mortal wounds from which he died a few days after in Camden. The British recognized his merit and his bravery and accorded him military honors at his burial.

The monument which the citizens of Camden erected over his grave in recognition of his zeal and services bears the following inscriptions:

South face:

HERE
LIE THE REMAINS
OF
BARON DE KALB
A GERMAN BY BIRTH BUT
IN PRINCIPLE
A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

East face:

HIS LOVE OF LIBERTY
INDUCED HIM
TO LEAVE THE OLD WORLD
TO AID THE CITIZENS OF THE NEW
IN THEIR STRUGGLE
FOR
INDEPENDENCE
HIS DISTINGUISHED TALENTS
AND MANY VIRTUES
WEIGHED WITH CONGRESS
TO APPOINT HIM
MAJOR GENERAL
IN THEIR
REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

West face:

HE WAS SECOND IN
COMMAND IN THE BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR
CAMDEN
ON THE 16TH AUGUST
1780
BETWEEN THE
BRITISH AND AMERICANS
AND
THERE NOBLY FELL
COVERED WITH WOUNDS, WHILE
GALLANTLY PERFORMING
DEEDS OF VALOR
IN
RALLYING THE FRIENDS
AND
OPPOSING THE ENEMIES
OF HIS
ADOPTED COUNTRY

North face:

IN GRATITUDE
FOR HIS ZEAL AND SERVICE
THE CITIZENS OF CAMDEN
HAVE ERECTED
THIS MONUMENT

Other Memorials.

Kirkland Memorial, at the junction of De Kalb and Broad streets, is a fountain for watering horses. It bears the following inscription :

TO RICHARD KIRKLAND
C. S. A.

IN COMMEMORATION OF HIS HEROISM
AT FREDERICKSBURG, DEC. 13, 1862.

CHRISTLIKE COMPASSION MOVED HIM
TO LEAP OVER THE STONE WALL, A MARK
FOR HOSTILE GUNS, AND CARRY WATER
AGAIN AND AGAIN, TO THE SUFFERING
FOE FALLEN THICK IN FRONT.

“GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS”

HE FELL AT CHICKAMAUGA, AGED 20

A TRIBUTE FROM THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF CAMDEN
A. D. 1910

The Dickinson Monument, in Monument Square, at the junction of Laurens and Broad streets, is a memorial to Lieutenant-Colonel James Polk Dickinson and serves to show Camden's connection with the Mexican War. Dickinson, who was born in Camden in 1816, assisted former Governor Pierce M. Butler to raise the Palmetto regiment of South Carolina and was second in command to Colonel Butler. At Vera Cruz, where the regiment took its part in the landing operations of General Scott's army, Dickinson was wounded, and, later, at Churubusco, on the same day on which his leader was killed, 25th of August, 1847, he fell mortally wounded. The monument records that he died on the 12th September at Mixchoag. His last words to the De Kalb Rifle Guards, uttered in the midst of battle when he caught up the Palmetto banner from the fallen flag-bearer, are worth recording for their theatrical

eloquence: "Here, soldiers, is your standard! You once pledged your sacred honor never to desert it. Come, redeem your pledge! Rally round it. And thrice honored be the name that tops the list!"

The Confederate Monument, in Monument Square, was "erected by the women of Kershaw county in memory of brave sons who fell during the Confederate War defending the rights and honor of the South," as the monument itself records. The east face of the monument carries the following inscription: "They died for home and country and are gratefully remembered wherever they lie," and the following verses:

"Countless eyes have scanned their story,
Countless hearts grown brave thereby;
Let us thank the God of glory
We had such to die."

The monument to Civil War Generals, in Kershaw Park, is a handsome pergola and fountain with six pillars upon which are inscribed the names of six sons of Camden who rose to high command during the Civil War. These six generals were Major General J. B. Kershaw, and Brigadier Generals James Cantey, James Chestnut, Z. C. Deas, J. D. Kennedy and J. P. Villepigue.

Revolutionary Battlefields.

1. Battlefield of Camden. The visitor reaches the scene of Camden's first Revolutionary battle, that which took place on 16th August, 1780, by a drive of eight miles along the road to Lancaster, a continuation of

Broad street in Camden, branching from the Charlotte highway a mile or so before De Kalb, the village through which the Southern Railway passes. The field of battle, now marked by a boulder in memory of General De Kalb, is spread out on both sides of the highway. Today it is largely wooded ground. At the time of the battle it was forested by pines, probably much more open than the low growth which now stands. The American troops as arranged for battle on that disastrous morning were extended both east and west of the road, the Delaware and Second Maryland regiments being to the west, while the North Carolina and Virginia militia, whose panic precipitated the rout, lay to the east.

2. Battlefield of Hobkirk Hill. This interesting battleground is within the present city of Camden. Its center is near the junction of Greene street (named very suitably after the American general) and Broad street, in the Kirkwood section of the city. Where Broad street passes over the brow of the hill, the American commander, Nathaniel Greene, had placed his two cannon pointing southward along the road toward Camden. The cut had not been made in 1781, so that this central position was a commanding point. The present visitor to the field who takes his position at this point (above the cut) will be so placed as to comprehend the disposition of the opposing forces in the clearest manner. To the west, along the ridge of the hill, now occupied by several houses, he will readily take in the position occupied by the American right. Where

the Kirkwood hotel stands the First Virginia regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell held the right wing. Next east, just west of the road, were the Second Virginians, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hawes, who fell that day. To the east of the road were stationed Colonel Gunby's First Marylanders and beyond were the Second Maryland regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Ford. On this side the line extended to the low land beyond Lyttleton street.

It was at this center of the battleground, where we have assumed the visitor to be standing, that the Americans first gave way. Here first the British breasted the hill. Here took place the gallant and successful struggle, in which Greene himself took part, to recapture and withdraw the two pieces of artillery.

Quaker Graveyard.

Many of the early settlers of the Wateree region were Quakers. As early as 1759 a four-acre tract of land was purchased by them for the site of a meeting-house and graveyard, and the graveyard may still be seen within the bounds of the present Camden cemetery. The Quakers long since left this neighborhood, but the old graves serve as a reminder of the God-fearing men who had so much to do with laying the foundations of Camden.

Lafayette Cedar.

The Marquis of Lafayette visited Camden in March, 1825, on his tour of the United States. At that time, tradition records, some cedar trees were set out before his place of entertainment as temporary decorations,

but what was intended to be temporary became permanent. One of the cedars took root and flourished, at least so tradition says. At any rate the cedar, which may be seen in the yard of the present Kershaw county court-house, bears indubitably the name of "Lafayette Cedar" today.

Miscellaneous Objects of Interest.

Camden's two cotton mills may prove of interest to many among the visitors to the town. These are the Hermitage Mills, about a mile from town to the east, and the Wateree Mills, also to the east, but nearer the city, and in fact just beyond the Sarsfield Golf Club, and plainly to be seen from the course.

The Camden Beef Cattle Farms on the further side of the Wateree river is an interesting, because a bold and successful, venture in agricultural enterprise.

Of importance to Camden and of interest to the visitor is the plant of the Wateree Power Company on the Wateree river, seven miles above Camden. This concern, which is a subsidiary of the Southern Power Company, gives promise of adding very largely to the industrial opportunity of Kershaw county.

CHURCHES.

There is an architectural peculiarity about the Presbyterian Church on De Kalb street, which is certain to draw the attention of the observer, for the steeple is at the end of the building furthest from the street. It is the yard of this church which holds the grave and

monument of General De Kalb, which is among the objects of interest of Camden. The other Protestant churches are situated as follows: Grace Episcopal Church at the corner of Lyttleton and Laurens streets, the Methodist Church on the east side of Lyttleton street between Laurens and De Kalb streets, and the Baptist Church on Broad street at the corner of Lafayette avenue. The Catholic Church, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, is at the corner of Lyttleton and 18th streets.

CAMDEN HOSPITAL.

The Camden Hospital was opened on 1st December, 1913. It is equipped in the modern style and occupies a commodious and handsome building. There are wards for both colored and white races, the two for colored persons at the north end of a long corridor and those for whites at the south end. All are exactly the same in character and each has a normal capacity of four beds. The private rooms for pay patients are on the second floor, and altogether the hospital has a normal capacity of twenty-four beds, though this can be increased.

The operating rooms, diet kitchens, bath rooms, administration rooms and parlor, together with some rooms for nurses, are on the first floor of the main building, while the kitchen, store room, laundry, and dining room for nurses are under the wards, in the basement.

The hospital building was erected with a fund of about \$40,000 provided by Bernard M. Baruch, of New

York, as a memorial to his father, Dr. Simon Baruch, the distinguished surgeon and physician, who was for many years a successful practitioner in Camden. It is supported by private contributions and by the income of the Burdell Trust Fund, a bequest of approximately \$100,000 from Captain John Burdell, a prominent citizen of Kershaw county. Captain Burdell died in December, 1911, and his will directed that the income of the fund should be applied to the alleviation of the suffering of the poor, white and colored, of Kershaw county. In 1912 Mr. Baruch, by his determination to build the hospital building, made possible the present satisfactory application of the Burdell fund.

The charity of the hospital is extended to residents of Kershaw county only ; but private patients are accepted from anywhere.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

The Carnegie Library is situated in Monument Square at the junction of Laurens and Broad streets. It occupies a red brick building of pleasing appearance, first opened to the public on 3rd January, 1916. The small collection of books first moved to the new quarters is being systematically increased; there is shelf room for 9,000 volumes, and the building is so planned as to make further enlargements easily feasible when necessity requires.

The library is free to all white residents of Camden. The library association, an incorporated body, is composed of all white residents who pay annual dues of one dollar, and the direction of the business of the

library is in the hands of a board elected annually by the association.

Transient visitors and other nonresidents may enjoy the privileges of the library by complying with certain regulations fixed by the board of directors.

The building is the gift of Andrew Carnegie. At the instance of the Camden Civic League application was made to the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation in 1914. In 1915 it was decided to build the library, the principal conditions imposed being that the city should furnish a site and pledge itself to provide, for upkeep, ten per cent. of the donated sum, which was \$5,000. These conditions being accepted, and a site selected and provided, work was begun and the building carried to completion during 1915.

BROWNING INDUSTRIAL HOME AND MATHER ACADEMY.

The Browning Industrial Home and Mather Academy, situated at De Kalb and Campbell streets, is the outgrowth of Mather Academy, established soon after the Civil War and enlarged in 1887, when the Browning Industrial Home was established. The School and Home are under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but are undenominational in their work, which is the education and training of Negro boys and girls. There are five buildings in the group and sixteen acres of land in the property.

CLIMATE.

Those who enjoy a moderate winter climate similar to the autumn climate of New England, New York and the northern tier of northern states, will find the temperatures of Camden from November to April, inclusive, delightful. The climate of Camden varies from month to month, November and March, the right and left wings of the winter, resembling a Massachusetts September, or, perhaps, a Massachusetts May; December, January and February, a New England October, with touches of a November tinge. Occasionally snow falls in midwinter, like late fall snowstorms in the North, and cold, raw days do occur. Often when it rains without, a corner by the roaring pinewood fire is in favor within. But the South Carolina sun is powerful. When it shines after rain, the thermometer rises and a disagreeable day is transformed in five minutes into the most perfect of perfect days. During much of the winter overcoats are left hanging in the closet, but there are also many days which may best be described as "light overcoat" days, while there are times when winter clothing is imperatively needed.

There is nothing enervating about winter in central South Carolina; on the contrary, it is always bracing and refreshing. Those who wish for summer weather and August temperatures in January and February are frankly told they had better go further south to find them and advised to visit Camden in March or April; those, however, who like weather in which they may be out of doors all the time they wish, who like sunshine

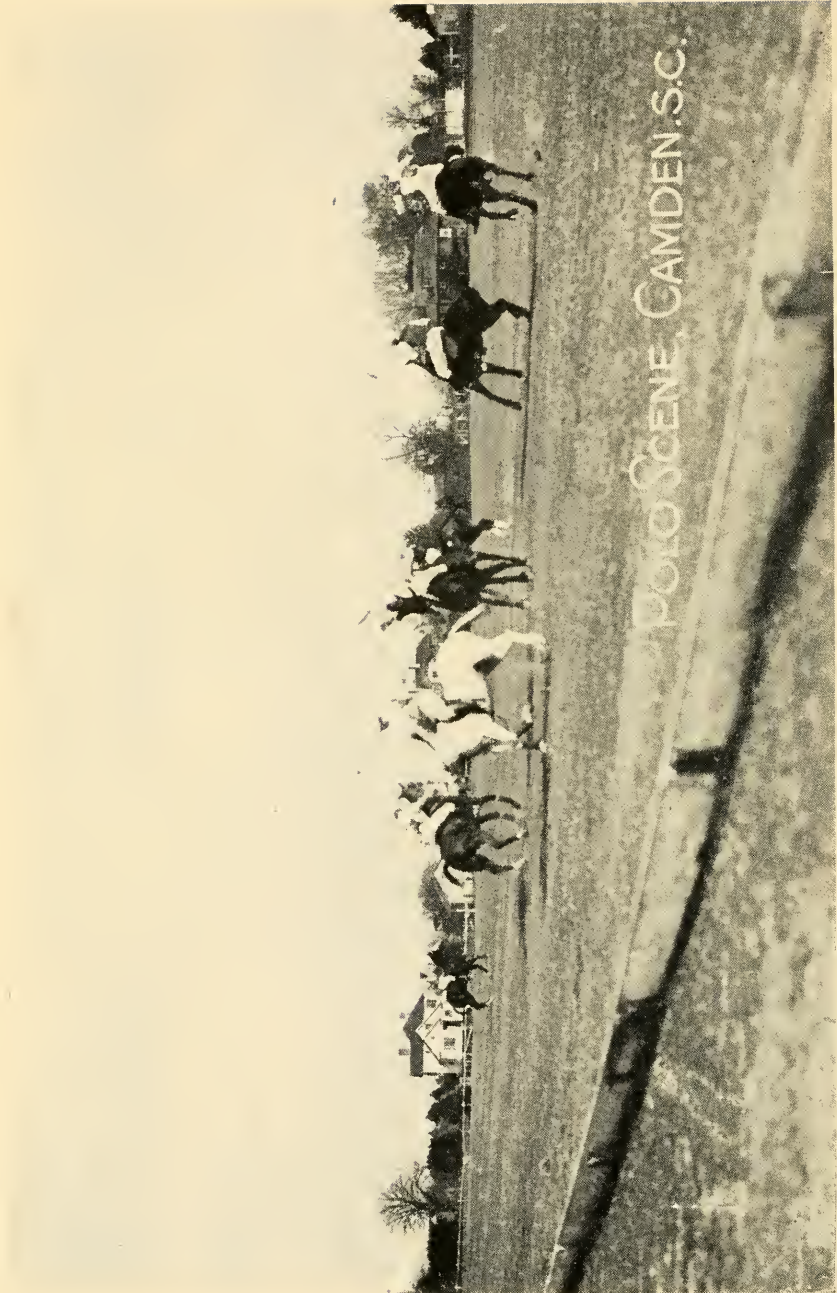
through air with a little tang to it, who like, in short, a moderate warm climate, will find Camden weather as perfect in kind as their hearts may desire.*

Weather Records.

The following statistics are supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau. The statistics as to relative humidity are taken from the Columbia, S. C., records. The other records are those of the Camden station of the department. The average temperature and average precipitation figures are drawn from all back authentic records, including the James Kershaw record, which began in 1791 and closed in 1815. The records have been drawn down to the close of 1916.

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
1. Average temperature	51.8	48.3	46.4	47.4	54.2	62.4
2. Average precipitation	2.41	3.41	3.40	3.95	3.76	3.04
3. Maximum temperature—						
Highest of record.	85	82	78	75	94	93
4. Minimum temperature—						
Lowest of record.	23	12	9	12	24	24
5. Average relative humidity—						
8 A. M.	77%	79%	81%	78%	78%	74%
8 P. M.	57%	64%	62%	59%	55%	53%

*Not the least of the beauties of Camden "weather" is the late hour at which the sun sets. Owing to Camden's position near the western boundary of the zone of Eastern Standard Time the sun apparently sets from 30 to 40 minutes later than in the northeastern United States. This, added to the length of day due to greater nearness to the equator, lengthens the afternoon almost to dinner time, even in the season of shortest days at Christmas.



RESORT FEATURES.

There are three resort hotels in Camden open during the winter. There are also a number of boarding houses which cater to the wants of northern visitors during the season.

The "season" lasts from the middle of November to the middle or end of April and attains its height in the months of February and March. During the season visitors to Camden take advantage of the opportunity for golf afforded by the two golf courses, both of eighteen holes, one that of the Camden Country Club, the other that of the Sarsfield Golf Club. Both are highly developed courses. In February and March the Polo Club plays weekly and biweekly games of polo and some time in March a tournament to which visiting teams are invited, is played in Camden. The Riding and Driving Club has provided a half-mile track and other facilities for sport and recreation, while the natural advantages of the neighborhood make informal riding and driving through the woods, over the soft country roads or along the more finished and finer surfaced highways, one of the features of winter life in Camden. Among the recurring features is the Annual Horse Show held each spring under the auspices of the Riding and Driving Club.

Sportsmen take advantage of the opportunities offered for shooting and fishing in a region of field and forest. Motorists find that, though the majority of roads are not well adapted for automobiling, the main

highways which lead to Charlotte, N. C., Columbia, S. C., and other neighboring points, give considerable range for motoring, and pleasure driving by motor has, in fact, increased from year to year.





SEPT. 68



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INDIANA

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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